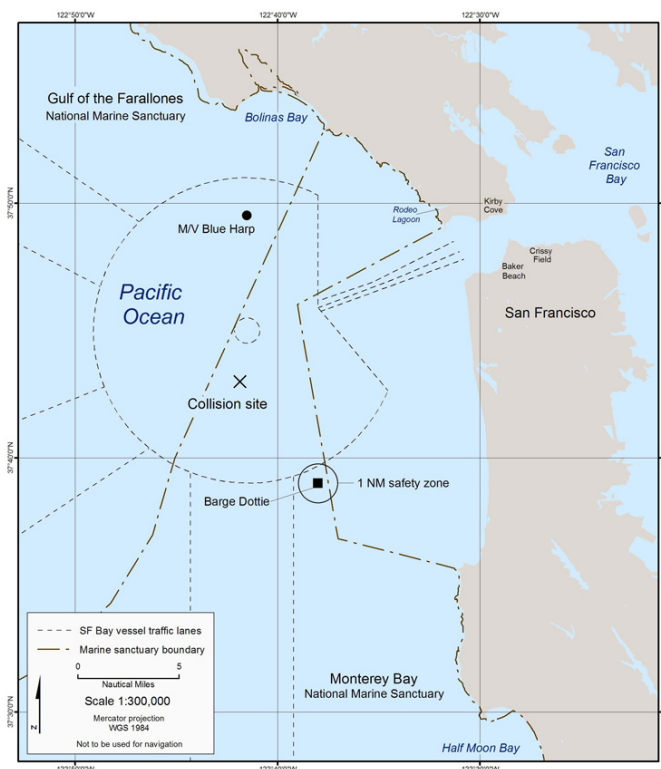
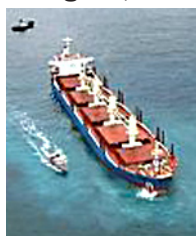




Safe Seas 2006 (SS2006) will exercise oil spill response preparedness on August 7-11 in the Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries in the waters near San Francisco. The exercise will highlight capabilities to deliver data, observations, forecasts, and expertise towards the goal of protecting life, commerce, and the environment during an emergency. This exercise will build on the oil spill preparedness efforts of governments, the private sector, and universities in California. SS2006 is a multi-agency effort lead by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in collaboration with U.S. Coast Guard, California Office of Spill Prevention and Response, Harley Marine Services, and Department of the Interior. More than 300 people will participate in training, field operations, oceanographic surveys, and incident command post activities. Vessels and aircraft from NOAA, the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Air Force Reserve, Marine Spill Response Corporation, Alameda County Sheriff's Department, and Bodega Marine Laboratory are expected to participate in the exercise. Additionally, the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System will activate the new surface current mapping radar in support of exercise data requirements.



Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries.

Safe Seas will consist of a series of activities culminating in a 2-day full-scale field exercise on August 9th and 10th, focusing on objectives specifically identified by NOAA and the regional partners. These objectives will address the broad range of scientific capabilities, technologies, and skills that can assist in addressing emergency response events.

Exercise Design and Goals

The Safe Seas 2006 emergency response exercise has three primary goals:

- Demonstrate human and technological capabilities, integrating across programs for the common goal of protecting marine and coastal resources;
- Develop individual skills in program management, coordination, contingency planning, emergency response, health and safety; and
- Build relationships across the public and private sector that foster long-term collaboration to protect the environment.

Scenario and Execution

SS2006 exercise scenario focuses on the hypothetical collision of a bulk freight cargo ship M/V *Blue Harp* in-bound to San Francisco Bay from Long Beach with the barge *Dottie* in tow by the tug *Ernest Campbell* out-bound from San Francisco. The collision results in oil spilling as the vessels move away from the collision site. The Gulf of the Farallones, Cordell Bank and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Pt. Reyes National Seashore, and the economic and ecological resources dependant on San Francisco Bay are all threatened by this incident.



Safe Seas 2006 provides NOAA and its partners an opportunity to explore and integrate new operational capabilities, including linking numerical modeling to real-time environmental observations and using autonomous underwater vehicles and remotely operated aircraft to collect operational data. The drill will exercise key assets typically used in emergency responses to oil spills and ship groundings will be augmented with new capabilities such as integrating data from the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) into pollution trajectory models. Additional areas of focus will include marine debris, shoreline cleanup and assessment, natural resource damage assessment, avian flu surveillance protocols, environmental trade-offs associated with particular response measures, including the use of oil dispersants and a “place of refuge” for the vessel needing repairs.

Operations

Coordinated between federal, state, local, and private industry, over 20 different field components will provide decision-makers and planners in the Unified Command enhanced situational awareness of response information in the field. These real-time data will feed directly into drill play and guide decisions made in the command post. Principle field operations will be viewed by up to 45 escorted VIPs from the Coast Guard Cutter Aspen. This field deployment exercise provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate new and developing techniques and technologies to a broad target audience.

The scenario provides a setting for integrating people and capabilities across the California response community: The U.S. Coast Guard will be leading the Unified Command, supporting operations safety and providing aerial observation assets. NOAA will deploy an Incident Meteorologist, activate NOAA All Hazards Radio, support injury assessment and environmental trade-off activities, deploy a real-time observation buoy, conduct rapid bathymetric surveys and forecast pollution fate. The United States Air Force Reserve will lead a simulated oil dispersant application mission. Other associated response operations will be conducted by the California Office of Spill Prevention and Response, the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department, the Bodega Marine Lab, and the Marine Spill Response Corporation.

Conclusion

SS2006 provides multiple opportunities for education and training in the months leading up to the exercise. This includes skill-based training in emergency response and safety for participants at the local, state, and federal levels. Emergency response training required by the Department of Homeland Security will also be provided on the National Incident Management System.

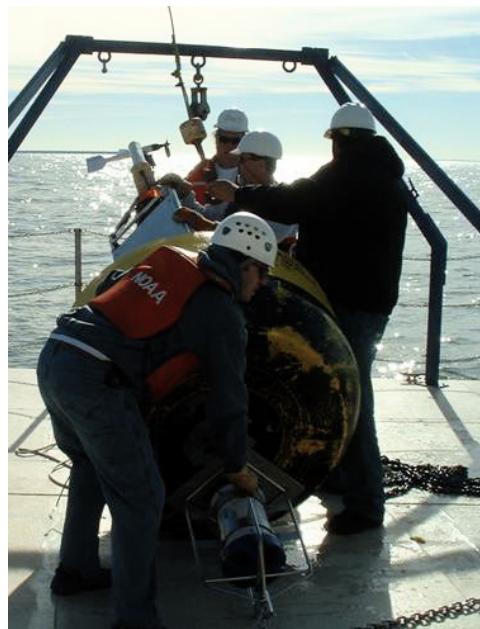
The orientation training, command post, and full-scale field exercises provide the opportunity to both build operational strengths and to analyze future requirements. A post exercise evaluation will help identify gaps in operational capabilities, areas requiring further research, and additional training that can enhance future operations.

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The NOAA Quick Response Environmental Buoy deployment.



Coast Guard buoy tender deploys Spilled Oil Recovery System.

Date	Activity	Location
July 10	ICS Training	Lower Fort Mason
July 11	ICS Training & Table Top Exercise	Lower Fort Mason
July 12	Functional Exercise	Lower Fort Mason
August 7	Short Courses & Technology Demonstration	Lower Fort Mason
August 8	Short Courses	Lower Fort Mason
August 9-10	Full Scale Exercise	Mission Bay Conf. Ctr.